



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

SD

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/599,809	06/21/2000	Matthew J. Kotler	MS1-561US	8042
22801	7590	07/11/2005	EXAMINER	
LEE & HAYES PLLC 421 W RIVERSIDE AVENUE SUITE 500 SPOKANE, WA 99201			NGUYEN BA, PAUL H	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2176	

DATE MAILED: 07/11/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/599,809

Applicant(s)

KOTLER ET AL.

Examiner

Paul Nguyen-Ba

Art Unit

2176

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 April 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13, 41-50, 82-92 and 98-103 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13, 41-50, 82-92 and 98-103 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2/10/2005.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

KA

DETAILED ACTION

Notice to Applicant

1. This action is responsive to: Applicant's Amendment and Remarks, filed on 4/20/2005.
2. Claims 1-13, 41-50, 82-92, and 98-103 are currently pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-12, 41-43, 82-84, 98, 102, and 103 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Laura Acklen & Read Gilgen ("Acklen"), *Using Corel WordPerfect 9*, 251-284, 424-434, 583-586 (1998).

Independent Claim 1 and Claim 4

Acklen teaches *an architecture comprising:*

a table appearance manager to manage how a table appears in a document comprising a table component to support editing functionality of the table (see generally pgs. 252-284 – "Organizing Information with Tables in WordPerfect" → teaches a table manager to create, work, edit, format the way a table appears in a document); *and*

a spreadsheet functionality manager to manage spreadsheet functions for the table and to receive data and formulas input into the table (see pgs. 425-430 - “Linking Spreadsheet Data” and “Using Spreadsheet Formulas in Tables” → manages spreadsheet functions such as formulas, calculations, functions, floating cells, etc.).

Claim 2

Acklen teaches the architecture of claim 1, *wherein the document is a markup document* (see pgs. 583-586 → An entire document, including tables, can be converted to HTML documents).

Claim 3

Acklen further teaches the architecture of claim 1, *wherein the table appearance manager provides a formula edit box to permit the user to enter a formula into a cell of the table* (see pgs. 425-427 and Fig. 15.22 → the Formula Textbox).

Claim 5

Acklen further teaches *the architecture of claim 1, wherein the spreadsheet functionality manager comprises:*

a cell table to maintain data values and formulas used in the table (see pgs. 425-427 and Figs. 15.21, 15.22 → table maintains data values and formulas); *and*

a format table to maintain formatting information used in the table (see pgs. 264-284 → formatting information can be saved when editing the format of the table).

Claim 6

Acklen further teaches *the architecture of claim 1, wherein the spreadsheet functionality manager comprises:*

a cell table to maintain data values and formulas used in the table (see pgs. 425-427 and Figs. 15.21, 15.22 → table maintains data values and formulas); and

a recalculation engine to recalculate the formulas following a change to a data value or formula in the cell table (see pg. 427 → Tables can be set to automatically recalculate when you make changes).

Claim 7

Acklen further teaches *the architecture of claim 1, wherein the spreadsheet functionality manager comprises:*

a cell table to maintain data values and formulas used in the table (see pgs. 425-427 and Figs. 15.21, 15.22 → table maintains data values and formulas);

a delay parser to parse input for the cell table as needed (see pg. 427 – “View Error” → If you incorrectly build a formula, this command will allow you to find out why you got the error and how to fix the problem. It is therefore inherent that the input is parsed in order to determine whether a formula is entered correctly for calculation or in need of correction due to error); and

a recalculation engine to recalculate the formulas following a change to a data value or formula in the cell (see pg. 427 → tables can be set to automatically recalculate when you make changes).

Claims 8-10

Acklen further teaches *the architecture of claim 1, wherein multiple tables appear in one or more documents, and the spreadsheet functionality manager is configured to maintain data and formulas for the multiple tables and track references made from one table to another table, the spreadsheet functionality being further configured to update any data and formulas in the multiple tables that is affected by a change made to one of the tables* (see pgs. 431-434 – “Project”; see also Fig. 15.30 → WordPerfect’s built-in spreadsheet capabilities allows the ability to link (*track references*) between a database table and a document table with formulas. Therefore, changes to one of the tables will automatically update any data and formulas affected by the change).

Claim 11

Acklen further teaches *the architecture of claim 1, wherein multiple tables appear in one or more documents, and wherein:*

the table appearance manager comprises multiple spreadsheet components so that there is one spreadsheet component for an associated table, each spreadsheet component being configured to capture data and formulas input into the associated table; and

the spreadsheet functionality manager comprises multiple grid components so that there is one grid component for an associated table and an associated spreadsheet component, each grid component maintaining the data, the formulas, and formatting used in the associated table

Art Unit: 2176

(see generally pgs. 252-284 – “Organizing Information with Tables in WordPerfect” → teaches a table manager to create, work, edit, format the way a table appears in a document).

Claim 12

Acklen further teaches *the architecture of claim 1, further comprising a document renderer to render the document* (see pgs. 277-284 → WordPerfect allows the adding of realism to computer graphics by adding 3D qualities such as shadows and variations in color and shade).

Independent Claims 41, 82, and 98, and Claims 42, 83, 84

Acklen teaches the architecture with respect to independent claim 1 as discussed above.

Furthermore, Acklen teaches *an architecture comprising:*

first and second tables renderable for display as part of a common document (see pg. 254 → The Drag to Create a New Table option in the Create Table dialog box enables you to create a second table inside of a first table (*nested*). After the second table is created, you can work with it just the same as the first table);

a first spreadsheet component to receive at least one of data or a first formula entered into a first cell in the first table; a first grid component to hold the data or first formula in association with the first cell of the first table (see Fig. 15.21 → notice grid component and cells which can hold data and formulas; see also pgs. 425-430 - “Linking Spreadsheet Data” and “Using Spreadsheet Formulas in Tables” → manages spreadsheet functions such as formulas, calculations, functions, floating cells, etc.);

a second spreadsheet component to receive at least a second formula entered into a second cell in the second table, the second formula referencing the first cell in the first table; and a second grid component to hold the second formula in association with the second cell of the second table (see Fig. 15.21 → notice grid component and cells which can hold data and formulas; see also pgs. 425-430 - “Linking Spreadsheet Data” and “Using Spreadsheet Formulas in Tables” → manages spreadsheet functions such as formulas, calculations, functions, floating cells, etc.).

Claims 43

Acklen teaches *the architecture of claim 41, wherein the second spreadsheet component presents a formula edit box to allow user entry of the second formula* (see pgs. 425-427 and Fig. 15.22 → the Formula Textbox).

Claim 102

Acklen teaches *a computer as recited in claim 98, wherein the architecture comprises:*
a table appearance manager to manage how a table appears in a document comprising a table component to support editing functionality of the table (see generally pgs. 252-284 – “Organizing Information with Tables in WordPerfect” → teaches a table manager to create, work, edit, format the way a table appears in a document); *and*
a spreadsheet functionality manager to manage spreadsheet functions for the table and to receive data and formulas input into the table (see pgs. 425-430 - “Linking Spreadsheet Data”

Art Unit: 2176

and “Using Spreadsheet Formulas in Tables” → manages spreadsheet functions such as formulas, calculations, functions, floating cells, etc.).

Claim 103

Please refer to the rationale relied upon to reject claim 102.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claim 13 and 85-92 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Laura Acklen & Read Gilgen (“Acklen”), *Using Corel WordPerfect 9*, 251-284, 424-434, 583-586 (1998).

Claim 13

Acklen teaches the architecture of claim 1 as discussed above, but does not specifically teach *wherein the table appearance manager and the spreadsheet functionality manager reside on different computers*. It was commonly known to those of ordinary skill in the art that table managers and spreadsheet managers may reside on different computers for the purpose of saving hard drive space on a particular computer. It would have been obvious at the time the invention

Art Unit: 2176

was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to separate a table manager and a spreadsheet manager for the purpose of saving hard drive space on a particular computer.

Claims 85-91 and Independent Claim 92

Acklen teaches the method integrating text and a spreadsheet table within a common document as discussed in independent claim 82 above. It was commonly known to those of ordinary skill in the art and would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to that the elements claimed in claims 85-92 are well-known features in word processing documents such as WordPerfect for the purpose of document processing.

7. Claims 44-50, 99-101 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Laura Acklen & Read Gilgen ("Acklen"), *Using Corel WordPerfect 9*, 251-284, 424-434, 583-586 (1998), in view of Redpath, U.S. Patent No. 5,630,126.

Claims 44-49, 99, 100

Acklen teaches the architecture of claim 41 and 42 as discussed above, but does not specifically teach the architecture wherein the second spreadsheet component facilitates reference editing to the first cell in the first table comprising a recalculation engine wherein the first and second tables are updated to reflect a result produced by the recalculation engine.

However, Redpath teaches a plurality of math cells located within a common compound document, all linked together (i.e. *dependencies*) so that related math parts are evaluated and updated upon user input. In response to user input, each math cell in the first set automatically displays the results from the reevaluation (i.e. *recalculation*) of its computational functions (i.e. *formulas*) (see col. 2, lines 38-40, 61-63; col. 3, lines 60 *et seq.*).

Since Acklen and Redpath are both from the same field of endeavor, the purposes disclosed by Redpath would have been recognized in the pertinent art of Acklen. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the teaching of Acklen with the teachings of Redpath to include reference editing between tables in a common compound document for the purpose of linking calculations between cells and thus, automatically recalculating and updating functions upon user input for both tables.

Claim 50, 101

Acklen further teaches *the architecture of claim 41, further comprising:*

a free floating field renderable in the document but separately from the first and second tables; a third spreadsheet component to receive a third formula entered into the free floating field (see pgs. 429-430); and

a third grid component to hold the third formula table (see Fig. 15.21 → notice grid component and cells which can hold data and formulas; see also pgs. 425-430 - “Linking Spreadsheet Data” and “Using Spreadsheet Formulas in Tables” → manages spreadsheet functions such as formulas, calculations, functions, floating cells, etc.).

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments filed 4/20/2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant first contends that the Acklen reference does not disclose the underlying structure of the software itself, namely a “manager”. Examiner respectfully disagrees.

Acklen discloses controlling and directing how a table appears in a document (editing, creating, formatting, etc.) (see generally pgs. 252-284). Acklen also discloses controlling and directing spreadsheet functions for said table (formulas, calculations, functions, floating cells, etc.) (see pgs. 425-430). Although Acklen does not specifically use the term “manager,” a skilled artisan would be cognizant of the fact that a “manager” or “to manage” is nothing more than controlling or directing. Here, Acklen discloses controlling the creation, editing, or functions of a table and spreadsheet based upon user input according to a set of rules. If we took away the management aspect and other underlying architectures (i.e. parser, engine, etc.) of the Acklen reference, Word Perfect tables with spreadsheet capabilities would cease to be operable as taught.

Applicant's further contentions all attempt to read limitations of the specification into the extremely broad claims in order to narrow the scope of the claim by implicitly adding disclosed limitation which have no express basis in the claim. During patent examination, however, the

Art Unit: 2176

claims must be given their broadest reasonable interpretation as understood by one of ordinary skill in the art. Examiner respectfully disagrees with all these contentions.

For instance the term “component” is nothing more than a constituent element of a system, which is clearly taught by the Acklen and adds nothing in terms of limiting the claim (see above discussion → claim 5). A “format table” is simply a table that allows for the arrangement of data. A “cell table” is simply a table consisting of storage of units of information. These too are taught by the Acklen reference (see above discussion → claim 5). Furthermore, parsing input “as needed” is broad enough to encompass all viable alternatives, such as “upon receipt” as suggested by Applicant. Parsing “as needed” is essential to the success of Word Perfect as taught by the Acklen method and system. If one were to parse only when “not needed,” Word Perfect tables and spreadsheets would not be functional.

Conclusion

9. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

Art Unit: 2176

however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Paul Nguyen-Ba whose telephone number is (571) 272-4094.

The examiner can normally be reached on 11 am - 7 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather Herndon can be reached on (571) 272-4136. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

PNB

William L. Bashore
WILLIAM BASHORE
PRIMARY EXAMINER
7/7/2005